

JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

2011 Executive Order 29 Recommendation #4

Reducing Veterans Homelessness in Virginia

WHEREAS, homelessness has been a long-term issue and now is a growing problem within the population of veterans in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, trends reported by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans advocacy groups, and social services agencies show that there has been a significant increase in the number of women veterans among the homeless; and

WHEREAS, trends reported by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans advocacy groups, and social services agencies show that veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are becoming homeless at a faster rate than did veterans of previous conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the goal of reducing homelessness among Virginia's veterans may be a long term program; and

WHEREAS, action must be taken to start the process of reducing homelessness and the veterans homeless population provides a strong starting point because of the discipline they share, because they are readily identifiable, and because of the benefits they may incur by participating; and

WHEREAS, homeless veteran "stand downs" have been proven to be a successful method of attracting homeless veterans and providing them with access to veterans and employment services; and

WHEREAS, Governor McDonnell's Executive Order Number 29 seeks to address veterans homelessness in conjunction with Executive Order Number 10; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) documented the estimated size and nature of the problem and provided eighteen potential strategies to reduce and prevent veterans homelessness; therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations, That the Governor take another step toward making Virginia the nation's most veteran-friendly state by implementing as many strategies identified by JLARC as state fiscal resources will allow.

Adopted July 13, 2011